

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary

HOME AND OFFICE EDITION



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Cont

Preface

Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations Used in This

Pronunciation Symbols

A Dictionary of the English

Common English Given Na

Foreign Words and Phrases

Biographical Names

Geographical Names

Signs and Symbols

A Handbook of Style

Documentation of Sources

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1 : straight down; *also* : straight ahead **2**
7EDLY

plump *adj* : having a full rounded usu. pleasing form
syn fleshy, stout, roly-poly, rotund — **plumpness** *n*
plunder *v* 'plān-dər\ *vb* : to take the goods of by force
or wrongfully : **PILLAGE** — **plun-dər-er** *n*
plunder *n* : something taken by force or theft : **LOOT**
plunge *v* 'plān\ *vb* plunged; **plunging** 1 : **IMMERSE**,
SUBMERGE 2 : to enter or cause to enter a state or
course of action suddenly or violently (~ into war) 3
to cast oneself into or as if into water 4 : to gamble
heavily and recklessly 5 : to descend suddenly
plunge *n* : a sudden dive, leap, or rush
plunger *v* 'plān-jər\ *n* 1 : one that plunges 2 : a sliding
piece driven by or against fluid pressure : **PISTON** 3 : a
rubber cup on a handle pushed against an opening to
free a waste outlet of an obstruction
plunk *v* 'plāŋ\ *vb* 1 : to make or cause to make a hol-
low metallic sound 2 : to drop heavily or suddenly —
plunk *n*
plu-per-fect (ə)'plü-ˈpər-fikt\ *adj* [ME *pluperfyt*,
modif. of LL *plusquamperfectus*, lit., more than per-
fect] 1 : of, relating to, or constituting a verb tense that
denotes an action or state as completed at or before
a past time spoken of — **pluperfect** *n*
plu-ral *v* 'plür-əl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF *plurel*, fr.
P *pluralis*, fr. *plur-*, *plur-*, *plur-* & *l*, of, relating to, or
constituting a word form used to denote more than
one — **plural** *n*
plu-ral-ty 'plü-ˈrə-lə-tē\ *n*, *pl* -ties 1 : the state of be-
ing plural 2 : an excess of votes, over those cast for an
opposing candidate 3 : the greatest number of votes
cast when not a majority
plu-ral-ize *v* 'plür-ə-ˈlīz\ *vb* -ized; -iz-ing : to make plu-
ral or express in the plural form — **plu-ral-iza-tion**
n 'plür-ə-lə-ˈzā-shən\ *n*
plus *v* 'pläs\ *adj* [L, more] 1 : mathematically positive
2 : having or being in addition to what is anticipated
3 : falling high in a specified range (a grade of B ~)
plus *n*, *pl* **pluses** *v* 'plə-səz\ also **plusses** 1 : a sign +
(plus sign) used in mathematics to indicate addition
or a positive quantity 2 : an added quantity; also : a
positive quality 3 : **SURPLUS**
plus *prep* 1 : increased by : with the addition of (3 ~
4) 2 : **BESIDES**
plus *conj* : **AND** (soup ~ salad and bread)
plush *v* 'pləsh\ *n* : a fabric with a pile longer and less
dense than velvet pile — **plushy** *adj*
plush *adj* : notably luxurious — **plush-ly** *adv* —
plush-ness *n*
Plu-to *v* 'plü-tō\ *n* : the planet farthest from the sun —
see **PLANET** table
plu-to-cra-cy 'plü-ˈtā-krə-sē\ *n*, *pl* -cies 1 : government
by the wealthy 2 : a controlling class of the wealthy
— **plu-to-crat** *v* 'plü-tā-ˈkrāt\ *n* — **plu-to-cra-tic**
v 'plü-tā-ˈkrä-tik\ *adj*
plu-to-ni-um 'plü-ˈtō-nē-əm\ *n* : a radioactive chemical
element formed by the decay of neptunium — see
ELEMENT table
plu-vial *v* 'plü-vē-əl\ *adj* 1 : of or relating to rain 2
: characterized by abundant rain
ply *v* 'pli\ *vb* plied; **plying** 1 : to use, practice, or work
diligently (~ a trade) 2 : to keep supplying something
to (plied them with liquor) 3 : to go or travel regularly
esp. by sea
ply *n*, *pl* **plies** : one of the folds, thicknesses, or strands
of which something (as plywood or yarn) is made
ply *vb* plied; **plying** : to twist together (~ yarns)
Ply-mouth Rock *v* 'pli-məth-ək\ *n* : any of an American
breed of medium-sized single-combed domestic fowls
ply-wood *v* 'pli-wud\ *n* : material made of thin sheet
of wood glued and pressed together
pm *abbr* premium
Pm *symbol* promethium
PM *abbr* 1 paymaster 2 police magistrate 3 postmaster
4 post meridiem — often not cap. and often punctu-
ated 5 postmortem 6 prime minister 7 provost mar-
shal

pmk abbr postmark
PMS abbr premenstrual syndrome
pmt abbr payment
pneu-matic \nū-ˈma-tik, nyū-ˈadj 1 : of, relating to, or using air or wind 2 : moved by air pressure 3 : filled with compressed air — **pneu-mat-i-cal-ly** \ti-k(ə)lēˈadv
pneu-mo-co-ni-o-sis \nū-mō-ˈkō-nē-ˈō-səs, nnyū-ˈn : a disease of the lungs caused by habitual inhalation of irritant mineral or metallic particles
pneu-mo-nia \nū-ˈmō-nyə, nyū-ˈn : an inflammatory disease of the lungs
Po symbol polonium
PO abbr 1 petty officer 2 post office
1 poach \ˈpöch-əb [ME *pochen*, fr. MF *pocher*, fr. OF *pochier*, lit., to put into a bag, fr. *poche* bag, pocket, of Gmc origin] : to cook (as an egg or fish) in simmering liquid
2 poach vb : to hunt or fish unlawfully — **poach-er n**
POB abbr post office box
pock \ˈpāk\ *n* : a small swelling on the skin (as in smallpox); *also* : a spot suggesting this
1 pock-et \ˈpā-kət\ *n* 1 : a small bag open at the top or side inserted in a garment 2 : supply of money
MEANS 3 : RECEPTACLE, CONTAINER 4 : a small isolated area or group 5 : a small body of ore — **pock-et-ful n**
2 pocket vb 1 : to put in or as if in a pocket 2 : STEAL
3 pocket adj 1 : small enough to fit in a pocket; *also* : SMALL, MINIATURE 2 : carried in or paid from one's own pocket
1 pock-et-book \-būk\ *n* 1 : PURSE; *also* : HANDBAG 2 : financial resources
2 pocketbook adj : relating to money
pocket knifer n : GOPHER 2
pocket-gopher \ˈpā-kət-nif\ *n* : a knife with a folding blade to be carried in the pocket
pocket veto n : an indirect veto of a legislative bill by an executive through retention of the bill unsigned until after adjournment of the legislature
pock-mark \ˈpāk-märk\ *n* : a pit or scar caused by smallpox or acne — **pock-marked** \-märkt\ *adj*
po-co \pō-kō, ˈpō-ədv [It, little, fr. L *paucus*] : SOMETHING — used to qualify a direction in music (~ *allegro*)
po-co a **po-co** \pō-kō-ä-ˈpō-kō, ˈpō-kō-ä-ˈpō-ədv : little by little : GRADUALLY — used as a direction in music
pod \ˈpād\ *n* 1 : a dry fruit (as of a pea) that splits open when ripe 2 : an external streamlined compartment (as for a jet engine) on an airplane 3 : a compartment (as for personnel, a power unit, or an instrument) on a ship or craft
POD abbr pay on delivery
po-di-a-trist \pə-ˈdī-ə-trē, pō-ˈn : the medical care and treatment of the human foot — **po-di-a-trist** \pə-ˈdī-ə-trist, pō-ˈn
pod-i-um \pō-dē-əm\ *n*, *pl* **podiums** or **po-dia** \dē-ə\ 1 : a dais esp. for an orchestral conductor 2 : LECTERN
POE abbr port of entry
po-em \ˈpō-əm\ *n* : a composition in verse
po-esy \ˈpō-ə-zē\ *n* : POETRY
po-et \ˈpō-ət\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *poete*, fr. L *poeta*, fr. Gk *poiētēs* maker, poet, fr. *poiein* to make] : a writer of poetry; *also* : a creative artist of great sensitivity
po-et-aster \pō-ə-stas-tər\ *n* : an inferior poet
po-et-ess \ˈpō-ə-təs\ *n* : a girl or woman who is a poet
po-et-ic justice n : an outcome in which vice is punished and virtue rewarded usu. in a manner peculiarly or ironically appropriate
po-et-ry \ˈpō-ə-trē\ *n* 1 : metrical writing 2 : POEMS — **po-et-ic** \pō-ˈe-tik\ or **po-et-ical** \-ti-kəl\ *adj*
po-grom \ˈpō-grəm, pō-ˈgrām\ *n* [Yiddish, fr. Russ, lit., devastation] : an organized massacre of helpless people and esp. of Jews
poi \ˈpoi\ *n*, *pl* **poi** or **pois** : a Hawaiian food of taro